the conference, Kornilov joined it and became its principal star. He accused the government of a vacillating policy and demanded it introduce iron discipline in the army and at the rear. Though he did not threaten the government directly, his speech sounded like a threat. The list of speakers was made up in advance, and the delegates of the army committees were not permitted to reply to the Supreme Commander. Kornilov was seconded by a Cossack general, Kaledin, who bluntly demanded the abolition of the Soviets and the committees in the army and at the rear and the resignation of Chernov, the Minister of Agriculture, as a defeatist. Kerensky replied by threatening both the left and the right. The conference was treated to a verbal duel between two budding Napoleons—one in uniform, the other in civilian clothes.

In the absence of Communists, the left wing of the conference was represented by the majority of the Executive Committee. Tseretelli defended the policy of the Soviets in the revolution; Chkheidze presented a cautiously worded platform of the Executive Committee demanding tighter economic controls, a democratic tax policy, anti-inflationary measures, development of democratic local government, and reorganization of the army on the basis of strict discipline without prejudice to the civil rights of soldiers and with preservation of the role of soldiers' committees. These speeches, however, were overshadowed by the clash between Kornilov and Kerensky. Soldiers' representatives who had attended the conference came back deeply worried about the future of democracy in the army.

The most important single political event of that period was the collapse of the campaign for a negotiated peace. The British government, acting in accord with the Russian government, denied visas to British Socialists who wished to attend the International Socialist Conference in Stockholm. The campaign was abandoned after this rebuke. Although there had been little interest in this campaign among the workers and soldiers in Russia and abroad, the news that there would be no peace conference, because the British and Russian governments were against it, produced a deep impression. Step by step, the Communists were regaining what they had lost in the July days.

THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE

Early in the morning of August 30, Parsky telephoned to me and asked me to come to his office. I found him in front of the wall map. He showed me a point on the Western Dvina and said: